

THE SCOOP

WHATEVER IT TAKES

The journey from cruelty to freedom ●●●

On an otherwise unremarkable day late last year, several Philadelphia agencies converged on a seemingly abandoned property to serve a search warrant. As the Philadelphia Police Department, Licenses & Inspections, Narcotics, and the SWAT Team approached the home, they found windows covered with black trash bags and a yard filled with litter and debris.

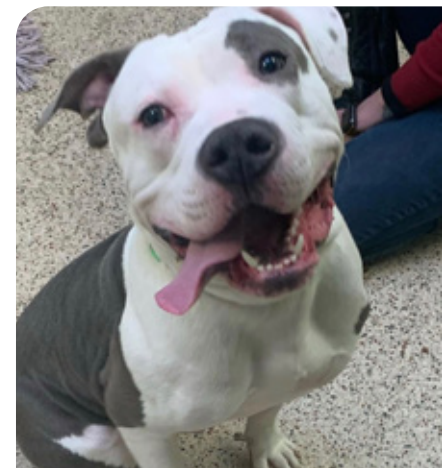
What these agencies found inside the property caused them to turn around and call the one team they hadn't thought to include that day – the Pennsylvania SPCA's Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) Officers.

Police officers and the SWAT Team immediately found several dogs living inside (including one dog that had already passed and was still in the home) and they realized that animal cruelty was likely at play. Lacking the expertise to safely rescue the dogs, it was time for our officers to help. Rushing to the scene, HLE Officer Steve Muller found 17 dogs loose in the house.

Upon further examination, it appeared that there were more than just dogs living there. The house was covered in animal and human excrement. The waste was found throughout, and the poor dogs were covered in it. To make matters worse, many dogs had fresh wounds to their heads and bodies, while others were covered with scars. This environment was completely unfit for dogs and humans to be living in – but there they were.

This is when we first met Onyx, Ben, and 15 other merle-colored pitties, in addition to 2 bearded dragons, and a slider turtle.

(continued on page 3)



Onyx and Rachel, our Behavior and Adoptions Manager pictured above. Ben pictured here.

SPRING 2020

HEADQUARTERS

350 East Erie Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19134
215-426-6300
info@pspca.org

DANVILLE CENTER

1467 Bloom Road
Danville, PA 17821
570-275-0340
danville@pspca.org

LANCASTER CENTER

848 South Prince Street
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-917-6979
lancaster@pspca.org

MAIN LINE ANIMAL RESCUE

1149 Pike Spring Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-933-0606
info@mlar.org

DONATE

www.PSPCA.org/donate
development@pspca.org

VOLUNTEER

www.PSPCA.org/volunteer
volunteers@pspca.org

FOSTER

www.PSPCA.org/foster
foster@pspca.org

REPORT CRUELTY
866-601-SPCA

PENNSYLVANIA
SPCA

The Advocate for Animals
SINCE 1867



Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! In this, the first edition of *The Scoop* of 2020, we are sharing two very different stories from the field with our Humane Law Enforcement team. One in North Philadelphia and one in Lancaster, these two stories have equally tragic beginnings, but together, saved the lives of over 70 dogs.

In our cover story, we'll introduce you to seventeen beautiful merle pitties who were living in filth in a house in North Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania SPCA's officers were called in by Philly Police and SWAT when they found an unexpected surprise while serving a search warrant.

Next, we share the story of 55 dogs rescued from a breeder in Lancaster County. French Bulldogs, Cane Corsos, Pomskis and more were saved just in the nick of time, suffering from untreated medical conditions and living in squalor. What our officers found that day was a far cry from the photos of happy puppies in a bucolic setting found on the breeder's website. It's a sad situation we see all too often.

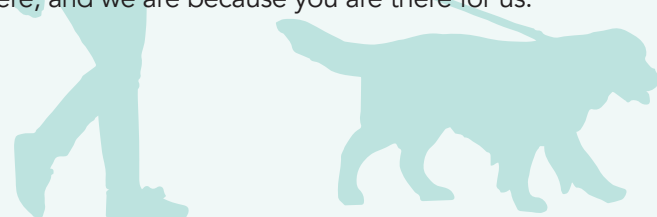
The work doesn't end, but these stories shouldn't leave you feeling hopeless. Thanks to your support of our work and tougher new laws in Pennsylvania, the charges we filed against the Lancaster County breeder resulted in a lifetime ban from owning animals – they will never again be able to profit from harming animals and that's thanks to you. That abandoned house in Philadelphia is shut down and those dogs will never again suffer in those conditions.

These animals count on us to be there, and we are because you are there for us.

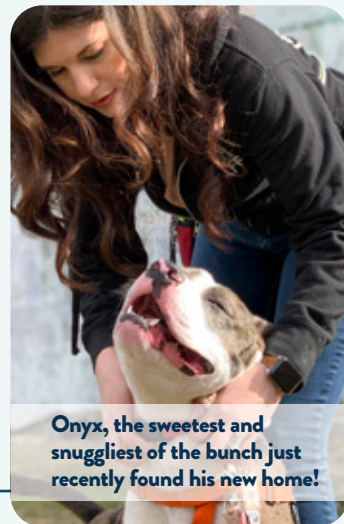
Thank you.

Warmest Wishes,

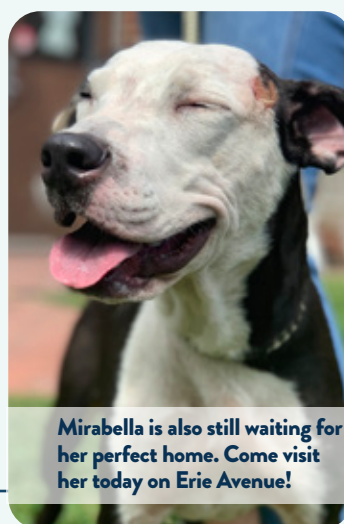
Julie Klim
Julie Klim, CEO



Gazelda, a 4 year old pit bull female, still looking for a home at the PSPCA headquarters.



Onyx, the sweetest and snuggliest of the bunch just recently found his new home!



Mirabella is also still waiting for her perfect home. Come visit her today on Erie Avenue!

WHATEVER IT TAKES continued from front cover

The journey of these dogs was just beginning that day. While their physical wounds would heal in time, mending their hearts and minds would take much longer. They had been living their entire lives cooped up in this horrible place and it was clear they didn't know how to be a "dog."

All of the dogs had trouble understanding what a leash was, or what it meant to take a walk outside. Ben, at just 1 year old, was the worst leash biter we had ever seen. He was nearly impossible to get out of his kennel and required 2-3 people to safely walk him through our Philadelphia Headquarters.

But, we didn't give up on him. Our behavior team found ways to help him expend his energy, taught him to care more about treats and toys than biting his leash, and soon, Ben began to relax and trust people.

After much training, he could be found sleeping in our administrative offices, or making new friends throughout the building. We are so proud of his progress and thrilled to say that against all odds, this big-headed guy found the perfect family to adopt him!

Onyx was a ball of energy, too. These dogs are still learning what it means to be cared for - to have food and water, a clean and comfy space to live, and to have people treat them in a loving manner. The transitions into their "forever" homes are sure to be full of challenges, too, but our team will be there to help.

The journey to safety and compassion for our animals doesn't end the day they walk through our doors, or the day they head home – we are committed to them for life.

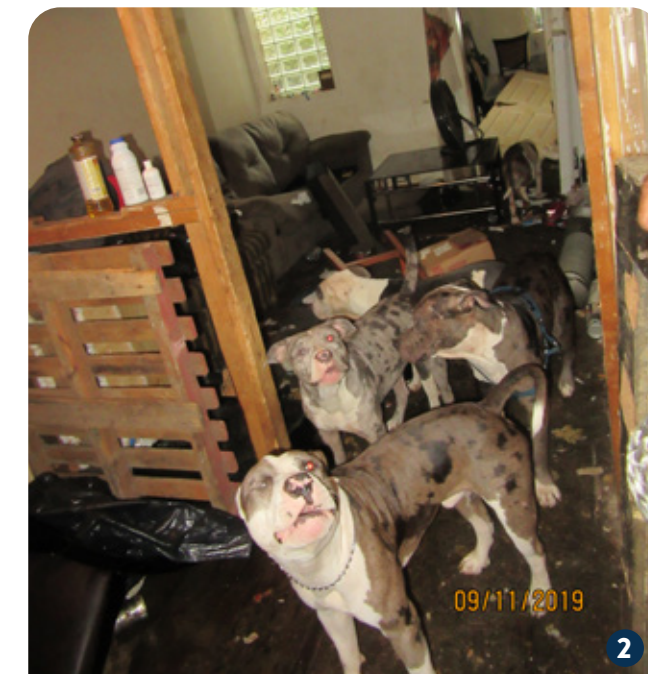
The pictures to the right reveal just part of the life that Ben, Onyx, and all of the animals that were with them had experienced. Thank you for helping us rescue them.

- 1 Jakub, a black and white pit bull/terrier mix, found among garbage, feces, and discarded medical supplies on the first floor of the house.
- 2 Onyx, with what we believe are his merle pit bull siblings, found in a back room, crawling amongst broken furniture, refuse, feces, and urine.
- 3 Claudia, at less than a year old, laying in a tub without access to clean water or adequate food.
- 4 March, a puppy that we rescued from the property, pictured during intake at PSPCA headquarters. The next day, March went to Street Tails Animal Rescue.



09/11/2019

1



09/11/2019

2



3



09/11/2019

4

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SAVE A FAMILY



Archie, Josie, and Jughead, frenchie puppies that were born in foster. Their mom, Veronica, was a victim of cruelty from Lancaster County.

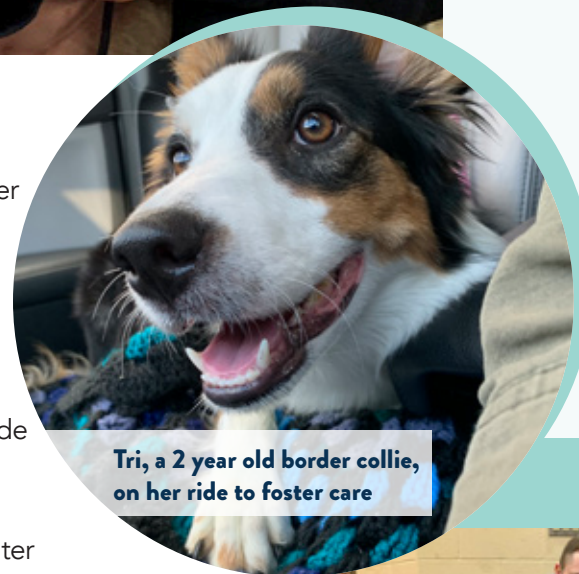
French Bulldogs, Cane Corsos, Border Collies, Doberman Pinschers and Pomskis — it sounds like a dream for dog lovers, but in reality, the situation we uncovered in September of last year was much more of a nightmare. Acting on a tip, the Pennsylvania SPCA's Humane Law Enforcement team descended on the property of a breeder in Lancaster County to find 55 dogs and puppies suffering in filthy and unlivable conditions. The dogs were being bred to be sold to unsuspecting families for thousands of dollars, but the dogs were in trouble and needed our help.

Because of you, we were able to answer the call. Our team removed all 55 dogs from the property and rushed them to our animal hospital in Philadelphia. Our team was there to help the dogs recover from upper respiratory infections, including one fragile puppy who had a confirmed case of pneumonia that would require surgery. Our team was there in the 150 days between the rescue and the day the court finally awarded

custody to us. And our team was there to find new homes for all of the dogs who would never again be subjected to such inhumane living conditions and forced to breed for profit.

From our Humane Law Enforcement team, to the medical staff at our Animal Hospital, to the foster families who stepped up to provide temporary homes, to our behavior team and volunteers who worked to keep all 55 of the dogs happy and enriched while living in a shelter for months — we all stepped up to save them. It truly takes a village to save a family of dogs, especially one this big.

Our Humane Law Enforcement work is supported by donations to The Bengal Fund. To find out more, please visit www.pspca.org/BengalFund.



Tri, a 2 year old border collie, on her ride to foster care



It is a sobering reminder to the public to do their homework before purchasing an animal.

This business owner marketed animals on a website that showed dogs happily living in beautiful environments that were not remotely reflective of the conditions we found when executing our warrant.

— Julie Klim, PSPCA CEO



THE REALITY OF RESCUE

55 animals rescued from a single property

>4,564 collective number of days spent in protective custody, in the care of PSPCA

14 foster families who opened their homes to animals in need

\$50K cost of medical care, food, and housing



HOME AT LAST

After spending 161 days in our care while waiting for her court case to resolve, Kahlua, now Myrtle, went home with two other frenchie siblings and two amazing dads.

She now spends her days romping around the yard, lazing about on sofas, and greeting canine guests at Philadelphia Pet Hotel (her family business).

To find your own new addition, visit our adoptions website at www.pspca.org/adopt.

WE NEVER GIVE UP HOPE

If you saw our Winter 2019 "Scoop," you might remember our cover boy, Bentley, who found his "forever" home in September after spending 1,076 days in our care. While it certainly isn't ideal for a dog to wait in the shelter that long, we never gave up. Read about some of our other favorite longtermers who were recently adopted below.

Queen Lucy — 963 days

On Monday, December 30, the day we waited for more than two years arrived. Queen Lucy, our longest term resident at the time, who lived much of her time with us tied up in a court case, left the building.

Lucy's family couldn't be more perfect. They traveled a long distance - all the way from North Carolina! - met Lucy on Sunday and came back to make it official on Monday. And then she was gone. Her kennel, which had been occupied for so many days, was empty but our hearts were full.

After making it back home, Lucy's new family sent us a photo of her sitting on her brand new throne - safe, warm, and comfy inside her new home. These are the days we wait for in animal welfare.



Black Beauty — 636 days

Black Beauty came to the Pennsylvania SPCA from a cruelty situation in March of 2018. Even with our staff and volunteers dotting on her, she never received any interest from potential adopters.

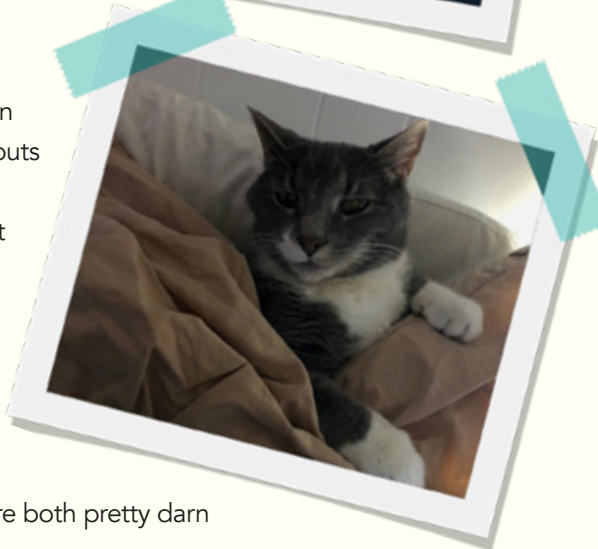
Finally, a previous adopter who had recently lost her dog, who was also a PSPCA cruelty case survivor, tragically to a brain tumor did something miraculous - she saved another, and she saved one that really needed it. She fell in love with Black Beauty and her "ferocious kisses," and the rest is history.

Deuce — 483 days

After learning of Deuce's story on the PSPCA's facebook page, Deirdre came to meet him. Her son Alex was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when he was just 7 years old, so over the last five years she learned the ins and outs of insulin dependence. Deuce's story spoke to her heart. It didn't hurt that Deuce also bore a strong resemblance to Plato -- a cat that her family lost to cancer in 2015.

Deirdre said she just couldn't put the thought of Deuce out of her mind and upon meeting him, she knew it was meant to be.

Since coming home, Deuce has bonded with her son Alex and she says: "they share a disease which boils down to something we have to manage. It doesn't really matter that their pancreases can't produce insulin. . . they're both pretty darn amazing. For me, it's just that simple."



MAIN LINE ANIMAL RESCUE

Sandy, from our affiliate organization Main Line Animal Rescue, is a 5 year old girl who is looking to find a loving home with an owner who treats her like one of the family.

Despite being rescued from a breeder earlier this year — where she was overbred and underloved — Sandy still has the spirit of a young dog, bouncing around like a puppy when she is given any attention.

Upon arriving at MLAR, Sandy needed to be groomed for over an hour to bathe and brush out all of the urine, matts, and dirt off her. But now, she's the most comfortable she's ever been and awaiting her forever home!

Visit us at Main Line Animal Rescue by setting an appointment with our Manager of Mission Advancement, Spencer Masloff at smasloff@pspca.org

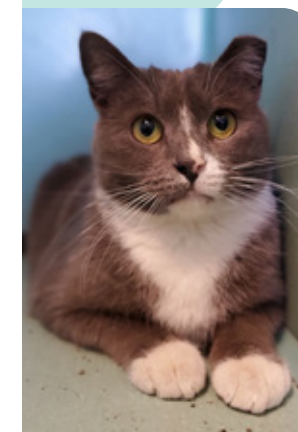
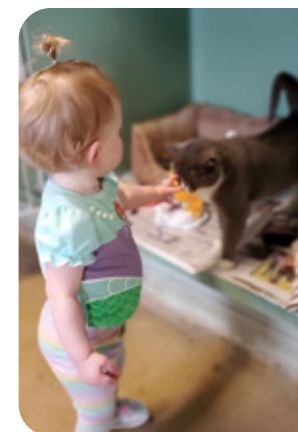


DANVILLE CENTER

We've had some pretty awesome adoption stories at our Danville Center lately!

Meet Ariel. This girl showed up at our barn one night as a stray. We planned to Trap-Neuter-and-Return (TNR) her but we quickly fell in love with her sassy attitude and knew that we needed to find her a home.

Ariel was our longest resident, waiting over 3 months in the shelter, but she finally found her perfect home!



Follow the PSPCA Danville Center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pspca.danville

LANCASTER CENTER

If you follow the PSPCA Lancaster Center on Facebook, you may have already seen our Tuesdays with Theodore feature, where we share the adventures of longterm shelter resident, Theodore (aka Teddy).

He loves hikes in the park, hanging out in the house, and is even a good boy in the bath — and thanks to our Facebook community, Teddy finally found his forever home!



Follow the PSPCA Lancaster Center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pspcalancaster

GET INVOLVED WITH THE PSPCA!

Check out the details for our upcoming events and register today!
We would love to see you.



Tails & Trails 2020 – 5k Run/2k Walk

Presented by Audi West Chester

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Main Line Animal Rescue | Chester Springs, PA

This fun, family-friendly event includes a cross-country style course, winding its way through MLAR's 60-acre farm. Post-race activities offer an exciting after-party with food, beer, vendors, music, adoptable animals, agility courses and more!

Friends, family, kid-friendly-dogs and dog-friendly kids are welcome to attend.

To register, visit www.mlar.org/tailsandtrails.



Springer Golf Outing

Presented by Wharton Business Group, LLC

Monday, May 18, 2020

Stonewall | Elverson, PA

This 10th annual event is the perfect opportunity to spend the day with friends and clients alike on this award-winning, exclusive course.

Be a part of this fun and fantastic ten-year tradition that welcomes avid golfers and animal lovers onto the greens.

Visit www.mlar.org/annual-springer-golf-outing for additional information.



PSPCA's 4th Annual Puppapalooza at the Pier

Thursday, August 20, 2020

Morgan's Pier | Philadelphia, PA



PSPCA's 8th Annual Bark & Whine Gala

Saturday, November 14, 2020

2300 Arena | Philadelphia, PA



Sponsorships are available for all events.

Contact Maura Murphy, Director of Special Events: mmurphy@pspca.org



REPORT CRUELTY | 866-601-SPCA

